



The President's Daily Brief

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at a four power meeting of ambassadors' advisors in Berlin on Friday, the Soviets were affable and businesslike but substantive progress was meager. The Soviets did express an interest in a more forthcoming communique following the next ambassadorial meeting on 4 November and frankly admitted they were looking for something "cosmetic" in view of the forthcoming Hessian elections.

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LAOS

Government forces at Phou Seu -- the highest elevation on the western perimeter of the Plaines des Jarres -- successfully beat off enemy ground attacks on Thursday and Friday. These attacks may be a probing action prior to heavier assaults recently ordered in North Vietnamese communications. These messages emphasized the tactical advantages of the Phou^u Seu terrain and underscores the importance the Communists attach to this area. In the southern panhandle, three battalions of government irregulars have captured the headquarters of the Pathet Lao governor of Savannakhet Province.

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At the United Nations, Egyptian Foreign Minister Riad told Ambassador Yost on Thursday evening that Egypt is willing to extend the cease-fire for three months only, but if negotiations were progressing satisfactorily, and the Secretary General so indicated, there would be no problem about a further extension. This goes somewhat beyond the possibility of a two month extension previously alluded to by the Egyptians.

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